

Message Text

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16
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 /082 W
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R 300750Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2708
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 1488

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, MU
SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF GULF FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE

REF: MUSCAT 1465

1. MOST LOCAL DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HAVE BEEN QUICK TO CHARACTERIZE RECENT CONFERENCE, WHICH ENDED EARLY AFTERNOON NOV 26, AS FAILURE AND ARE INCLINED TO PUT BLAME ON IRAQI MINISTER HAMMADI. HIS PRESENCE, THEY FEEL, MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR CONCRETE PROGRESS TO BE MADE.

2. FOR OUR PART WE TEND TO GIVE CONFERENCE A LOW BUT PASSING GRADE. WE THINK THE COMPLETE ROSTER OF ATTENDANCE, ALL AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, IN ITSELF WAS A PLUS FACTOR ESPECIALLY AS ONE OR TWO WERE IN DOUBT UNTIL SHORTLY BEFORE THE MEETING. IN OUR VIEW, ONE COULD NOT REALISTICALLY EXPECT A CONCRETE OUTCOME FROM
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CONFERENCE IN FORM OF MEANINGFUL COMPACT OR DECLARATION, GIVEN

THE WELL KNOWN SUSPICIONS OF IRAN AND IRAQ ON PART OF SEVERAL OTHER GULF STATES. THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN TRUE WHETHER IRAQ ATTENDED OR NOT. FROM OMANGOV'S OWN POINT OF VIEW, THEY CAN TAKE SOME PRIDE IN HAVING HOSTED THE FIRST FORMAL CONFERENCE OF ITS TYPE IN GULF AND RUN THINGS WELL ENOUGH TO RAISE THEIR OWN PRESTIGE A SMALL NOTCH WITHIN THE REGION.

3. WE SUSPECT, NONETHELESS, THAT WHILE CONSULATATIONS OF THIS NATURE WILL CONTINUE IT WILL BE SOME WHILE BEFORE PARTICIPANTS CHOOSE TO HOLD THEM IN SUCH A FORMAL FASHION AGAIN. WHEN THERE IS TOO LITTLE CONSENSUS EVEN TO WIND UP SUCH A MEETING WITH AN AGREED JOINT STATEMENT, CONSIDERABLE BEHIND-THE-SCENES DIALOGUE SURELY IS PREREQUISITE TO ANOTHER FORMAL CONFAB.

4. EXPECT HAVE MORE TO SAY ONCE FOREIGN MINISTER ZAWAWI IS AVAILABLE FOR DE-BRIEFING.

5. INCIDENTALLY, SAF/IRANIAN MANEUVERS MENTIONED PARA 4 REFTTEL WERE CANCELLED, AS EXPECTED.
WOLLE

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NNN

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